

In the Claims

We claim:

1. (Currently amended): An automatic leveling fixture, comprising:
a base;
at least one jaw being slidably connected to said base;
a base plate being slidable relative to said base;
said at least one jaw having a base plate camming surface engaging said base plate
causing said at least one jaw to move a preselected distance relative to a distance moved by said
base plate;[.]
a bat leveled during engagement by said at least one jaw and said base plate.
2. (Original): The automatic leveling fixture of claim 1, said at least one jaw being a
first jaw and a second jaw.
3. (Original): The automatic leveling fixture of claim 2, said first jaw and said second
jaw each moving one-half the distance moved by said base plate.
4. (Original): The automatic leveling fixture of claim 1, further comprising a jaw
channel extending through said base in a latitudinal direction.
5. (Original): The automatic leveling fixture of claim 4, said at least one jaw sliding
relative to said base through said jaw channel.
6. (Original): The automatic leveling fixture of claim 5, said jaw channel having a rail
positioned therein.
7. (Original): The automatic leveling fixture of claim 1, said at least one jaw being two
opposed jaws.

8. (Original): The automatic leveling fixture of claim 7, said two opposed jaws being biased inwardly toward said base plate.
9. (Original): The automatic leveling fixture of claim 8, said two opposed jaws being biased by a compression spring extending through said opposed jaws.
10. (Original): The automatic leveling fixture of claim 9, said two opposed jaws being mounted on a rail and slidable relative to said base.
11. (Original): The automatic leveling fixture of claim 1, said at least one jaw having a tapered receiving surface.
12. (Original): The automatic leveling fixture of claim 1, further comprising camming rollers mounted within a notch of said base plate and slidably engaging said base plate camming surface of said at least one jaw.
13. (Original) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 1, said fixture receiving bats of varying diameter and position said bats at equal elevations relative to a laser.
- 14-24. (Canceled)
25. (new) An automatic leveling fixture, comprising:
a base plate slidably positioned in a base;
a first jaw and a second jaw slidably adjustable relative to said base;
said first jaw and said second jaw biased toward said base plate;
said first jaw and said second jaw each having an inwardly directed base plate camming surface for directing said base plate a preselected distance in relation to movement of said jaw;
a bat leveled by engagement of said bat with said first jaw, said second jaw and said base plate.
26. (new) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 25, said base plate having at least one guide post slidably engaging said base through an aperture in said base.

27. (new) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 25, further comprising camming rollers engaging each of said base plate camming surface.
28. (new) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 25, said first jaw, said second jaw, and said base plate each having tangential contact with said bat placed in said automatic leveling fixture.
29. (new) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 25, said first jaw and said second jaw each moving one-half of a distance moved by said base plate.
30. (new) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 25, said base plate camming surface having a rise-to-run ratio of 2-to-1.
31. (new) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 25, said fixture receiving bats of varying diameter and repeatably positioning a peripheral edge of each bat at a preselected elevation.
32. (new) An automatic leveling fixture, comprising:
a base;
at least one jaw;
at least one plate moving relative to movement of said at least one jaw;
a bat engaged by said at least one plate and said at least one jaw;
wherein said fixture retains bats of varying diameter at equal elevations regardless of the bat diameter.
33. (new) An automatic leveling fixture, comprising:
a base;
a least one jaw slidable in a horizontal plane;
a base plate slidable through a vertical plane a distance relative to said sliding of said at least one jaw;
said automatic leveling fixture controlling lateral positioning and height of a bat in a repeatable manner regardless of the diameter of a bat.

34. (new) An automatic leveling fixture, comprising:

a base plate in contact with a bat;

a first and second slidable jaw in contact with opposite sides of said bat;

wherein said first and second jaws are in slidable contact with said base plate;

a marking device adjacent said bat;

wherein said first and second jaw slidably receive said bat and cause said base plate to modify the vertical position of said bat to maintain an equal distance of said bat to said marking device regardless of said bat diameter.

35. (new) An automatic leveling fixture, comprising:

a fixture apparatus which repeatedly positions a peripheral edge of a bat having an equilateral cross-section at a preselected elevation;

said fixture apparatus further repeatedly positioning a center point of each of said bat having an equilateral cross-section at a preselected longitudinal and latitudinal position.